

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Wupatki National Monument

Ericameria nauseosa / *Pleuraphis jamesii* – (*Hesperostipa comata*) Shrub Herbaceous Vegetation

MAP CLASS	Rabbitbrush Shrubland
COMMON NAME	Rabbitbrush / Galleta – (Needle-and-Thread) Shrub Herbaceous Vegetation
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Herbaceous Vegetation (V)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Perennial graminoid vegetation (V.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Temperate or subpolar grassland with a sparse shrub layer (V.A.7)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural
FORMATION	Medium-tall temperate or subpolar grassland with a sparse needle-leaved or microphyllous evergreen shrub layer (V.A.7.N.e)
ALLIANCE	<i>Pleuraphis jamesii</i> Shrub Herbaceous Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL Weak

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM Upland

RANGE

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Rabbitbrush / Galleta – (Needle-and-Thread) Herbaceous Vegetation commonly occurs within Wupatki NM. This association was found in our relevés near Kana a-wash, around Crack-in-rock road, on Antelope Prairie adjacent to Citadel Ruin, and on North Mesa. This association was not sampled outside of the monument boundaries; however, it did occur adjacent to the Babbitt Ranches on North Mesa.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

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This association occurred over a wide range of elevations from 4,593-5,512 ft (1,400-1,680 m) (average 5,118 ft/1,560 m) and slopes from 0-45% (average 9%). All relevés contained cinder soils with some of the relevés also containing remnant basaltic lava flow or a limestone component.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

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<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Shrub	<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>
Herbaceous	<i>Pleuraphis jamesii</i> , <i>Hesperostipa comata</i>

ASSOCIATED SPECIES

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Achnatherum hymenoides, *Artemisia filifolia*, *Bouteloua eriopoda*, *Bouteloua gracilis*, *Ephedra torreyana*, *Ephedra viridis*, *Eriogonum corymbosum*, *Ericameria nauseosa*, *Fallugia paradoxa*, *Gutierrezia sarothrae*, *Juniperus monosperma*, *Muhlenbergia porteri*, *Rhus trilobata*, *Tetradlea coulteri*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

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Rabbitbrush / Galleta – (Needle-and-Thread) Herbaceous Vegetation total vegetation cover ranged from 25-80% absolute cover (average 48%) with 7-19% (average 13%) in the shrub layer and 15-70% (average 38%) in the herbaceous layer. The total species diversity ranged from 6-16 species (average 9) within the 10 relevés sampled.

The shrub layer is dominated by *Ericameria nauseosa* with absolute cover ranging from 5-16% (average 9%). *Pleuraphis jamesii* is the dominant understory species with absolute cover ranging from 12-40% (average 22%). *Hesperostipa comata* is also a frequent but a less dominant understory component and ranged from 0-6% (average 2%).

CONSERVATION RANK G?

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DATABASE CODE C EGL002996

MAP CLASSES

The association Rabbitbrush / Galleta – (Needle-and-Thread) Herbaceous Vegetation is represented by map class Rabbitbrush Shrubland (map code 17).

The total area mapped within Wupatki NM is 4,413 ac (1,786 ha) within 274 polygons and the total area in the park environs is 5,003 ac (2,025 ha) within 274 polygons.